

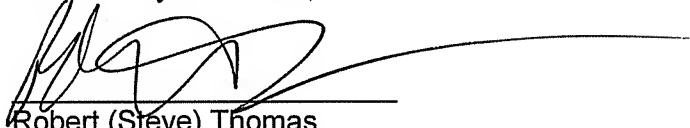
REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. The Examiner has required restriction to one of two (2) groups. In response to such restriction, Applicants wish to proceed as follows.

Applicants elect with traverse Group II (claims 4-6, 8, 10, 12), drawn to a method of reducing or preventing development of liver fibrosis comprising administering to a mammalian subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of an FXR agonist, and select the species of claim 6 (Formula II), for prosecution on the merits. Claims 1-3, 7, 9 and 11 are hereby withdrawn. After entry of the present amendment, claims 4-6, 8, 10 and 12 will be pending. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the non-elected claims that have been assigned to group I in one or more divisional application(s).

Applicants believe the present claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any outstanding issues with the pending claims, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (919) 483-8406 for expeditious handling.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert (Steve) Thomas
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 52,284

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Customer No. 23347
GlaxoSmithKline
Corporate Intellectual Property
Five Moore Drive, P.O. Box 13398
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3398
Telephone: (919) 483-8406
Facsimile: (919) 483-7988